



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

July 29, 2013

Mike Spaits  
Public Affairs Officer  
96 TW/ PA  
101 West D Avenue, Suite 236  
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5499

Subject: EPA's Comments on the  
Revised Draft Supplement Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for F-35  
Beddown at Eglin AFB, Florida.  
CEQ No. 20130164

Dear Mr. Spaits:

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4 reviewed the Revised Draft Supplement Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for F-35 Beddown at Eglin AFB, Florida.

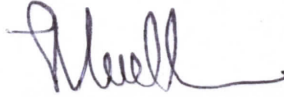
This Revised Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is the result of the Joint Program Office (JPO) releasing new noise profiles for the F-35 aircraft; consequently, the Air Force delayed the release of the Final SEIS. Meanwhile, the final Gulf Regional Airspace Strategic Initiative (GRASI) recommendations became available, plus the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) revised the operational plans for the aircraft to reflect updated JSF training plans. The Air Force has revised the Draft SEIS to address the updated noise profiles, the GRASI recommendations, and the revised operational plans. Section 1.2.6 has provided more detailed explanation of the updates and differences between the Revised Draft SEIS and the Draft SEIS published on September 24, 2010.

EPA appreciates the responses to our comments (memo dated November 8, 2010) regarding the Draft SEIS, which are included in Section 1.4 and Appendix E of the Revised Draft SEIS. Based on the information in the Revised Draft SEIS, it appears that you have addressed our primary concerns on noise as it relates to the impacts to children and the Environmental Justice community and water-quality.

In conclusion, as more information is known from any ongoing studies on F-35 Operational Tests, please identify and include this information in the final document. We recommend that you continue to keep the community informed on project status.

We appreciate your coordination with us. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Gissentanna of my staff at 404-562- 8248 (gissentanna.larry@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mueller", with a stylized, flowing script.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
NEPA Program Office  
Office of Environmental Accountability